

**St John the Baptist and St Kentigern Parish Pastoral Council**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 29 September 2022**

**Present:** Fr Jeremy, Karen Birnie, Marlene McCallum, Brian Murray (until 8.35pm), Rita Phillips, Anne Simpson.

**Apologies:** Martin Spears

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr Jeremy opened the meeting with a prayer for clarity and inspiration in discussing proposals for the parish.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed – Brian; Seconded - Rita

3. **Matters Arising from Meeting 7 June 2022**

- a) **Health and Safety Measures:** The contract for archdiocesan fire risk assessments was currently out to tender.
- b) **Eco-congregation initiative:** Plans were ongoing. On the related issue of Integral Human Development, Rosalyn Mauchline was arranging a date for a SCIAF workshop which would take place in St Kentigern's Hall.
- c) **Music evening:** Susan Barry, St Kentigern's organist, had organised a successful evening during which the attendees had been introduced to new hymns. Margaret Edie and Marysia Holmes, organists from St John's had attended. Refreshments had been provided. Susan was now preparing a hymns supplement which could also be offered to St John's.
- d) **Men's Group:** Brian to explore this further with a view to incorporating a spiritual dimension.  
**Action: Brian**

4. **Parish Synod and Assembly Implementation**

- **Bereavement Group:** A meeting of possible volunteers was being arranged. The group would develop in response to the needs expressed by the bereaved, but support soon after a bereavement would be a priority. It was hoped that some guidance could be given by parishioners with relevant experience and it was suggested that William Purves might provide someone to give a talk on the support group they organise. It was agreed that the annual Bereavement Mass would take place on 24 November in St Kentigern's and that the group could organise the occasion and provide refreshments. The group could also take responsibility for arranging the annual Rosary at Corstorphine cemetery on Holy Souls Day  
**Action: Marlene**
- **Alpha Course:** This would not now take place before Spring at the earliest. There were one or two people interested in the Enquiry course which had been advertised in the newsletter and Fr Jeremy suggested that parishioners who had completed the Catechetics Diploma might be interested in participating in some of the sessions.
- **Next Steps:** Brian said he would update his spreadsheet for the next meeting to highlight which proposals were currently being addressed.  
**Action: Brian**

5. **Warm Spaces/Cost of Living**

It was agreed that there would be an appeal for volunteers to manage a warm space for local people who might be affected by the cost of living crisis. This would initially be only in St Kentigern's Parish Room, because of the St John's Hall alterations. It was suggested that newspapers, magazines and board games could be made available. Refreshments would be offered. Churches of other denominations had similar initiatives and it was decided that Fr Jeremy would ask through the newsletter if helpers could be available on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 2 to 5pm.

**Action: Fr Jeremy**

## **6. St John's Hall Improvements**

Fr Jeremy reported that a traffic management order from the Council would be necessary for the relevant access works to take place. Fundraising would be necessary to allow future improvements to take place, such as kitchen refurbishment. Anne to enquire if the TOR Foundation was able to make a further donation. It was agreed that a new kitchen hot water urn needed to be purchased urgently. The windows at St Kentigern's would need to be replaced and the Archdiocese had given the necessary approval for quotes to be obtained. The lights in both churches were in need of upgrades. Anne to research funding for improving grants. **Action: Anne**

## **7. Sunday Brunch at St John's**

Following a discussion about the hygiene regulations covering the serving of hot food, it was agreed that Anne would request a visit from an Environmental Health inspector. Karen had researched useful information on a Church of Scotland website. A continental brunch was suggested for the next scheduled brunch on 15 October. **Action: Anne**

## **8. Parishioners' Suggestions**

None had been received.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- As Peter Robertson had resigned from the PPC, Fr Jeremy and all PPC members wanted to formally acknowledge and thank him for his service to the parish as PPC Chair since the beginning of 2020. Anne to send him a card and note of thanks on behalf of everyone. **Action: Anne**
- Recruitment of new PPC members to be considered.
- The traditional Christmas party for senior citizens, organised by St Kentigern's SSVF, would resume this year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in St Kentigern's Hall. A notice would go in the newsletter in due course.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 17 November at 7.30pm in St John's Oratory**

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 9.10pm